

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00935 031534Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /059 W
-----040144Z 004160 /14

R 031534Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9941
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 0935

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: DEPTH OF SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY SPLIT UNCLEAR AS
ATTENTION FOCUSES ON CRUCIAL NORBOTTEN DISTRICT

REF: STOCKHOLM 895

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE WITHDRAWAL OF ORTHODOX
SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) MEMBERS UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF GOTEBOG DISTRICT CHAIRMAN ROLF HAGEL TO
FORM THE NEW COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (APK) (REFTEL)
REMAINS FRONT-PAGE NEWS, BUT A MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT OF
THE DEPTH OF THE SPLIT DEPENDS UPON THE OUTCOME OF
DISTRICT PARTY MEETINGS TO BE HELD WITHIN THE NEXT FEW
DAYS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION FOCUSES ON THE CRUCIAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STOCKH 00935 031534Z

NORBOTTEN DISTRICT, LONG THE CENTER OF OPPOSITION TO VPK
CHAIRMAN LARS WERNER. A MEETING ON MARCH 4 WILL DECIDE
WHETHER THE NORBOTTEN DISSIDENTS WILL JOIN THE DEFECTION
TO THE APK. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTS WHICH INITIALLY STATED THAT THE NORBOTTEN
DISTRICT HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE VPK (REFTEL) WERE IN ERROR,

AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DISTRICT, WHICH IS UNIQUE IN THAT THE OPPOSITION GROUP IS IN THE MAJORITY, WILL SIDE WITH THE APK IS EXPECTED TO BE DECIDED MARCH 4. DISTRICT CHAIRMAN ALF LOWENBORG HAS REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE DISTRICT MEETINGS OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT, WHILE THERE IS STILL A CHANCE FOR CONCILIATION, 'IT IS VERY SMALL.' LOWENBORG, JUDGING FROM PAST STATEMENTS, IS PROBABLY NOT VERY EAGER FOR A FORMAL DIVISION AND APPEARS TO BE AWARE THAT IT INVOLVES THE DANGER OF POLITICAL SUICIDE FOR ALL CONCERNED. HE MAY FEEL THAT HE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE, HOWEVER, AND MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF DISTRICT MEMBERS WILL THROW THEIR SUPPORT TO THE NEW PARTY.

3. THE OUTCOME IN NORBOTTEN, FORMERLY THE FOREMOST VPK STRONGHOLD, IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE VPK AND THE INCHOATE APK. IF NORBOTTEN JOINS THE APK, THE NEW PARTY WILL BE ALMOST ASSURED OF CAPTURING AT LEAST 10-15 PERCENT OF THE COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP; IF THE DISTRICT SHOULD UNEXPECTEDLY BALK, OR FRAGMENT ON THE QUESTION, IT WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY FOR WERNER.

4. OTHER DECLARATIONS OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE APK ARE TRICKLING IN AS VARIOUS LOCAL AND DISTRICT GROUPS CONSIDER THEIR STAND. MOST IMPORTANT THUS FAR IS THE DECISION OF VPK DISSIDENTS IN VASTERNORRLAND, WHERE THE STRUGGLE HAS BEEN INTENSE AND SOME MEMBERS EXCLUDED, TO SUPPORT THE NEW PARTY. THE LEADER OF THE GROUP, JEAN ASPLUND, WHO COULD DELIVER AS MANY AS 400 EMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STOCKH 00935 031534Z

TO THE APK, SAYS HOWEVER THAT HE IS STILL OPEN TO DISCUSSION WITH THE VPK.

5. WITH MOST PARTY DISTRICTS MEETING BEFORE OR OVER THE WEEKEND, THE EXTENT OF THE ACTUAL DAMAGE TO THE VPK, BESIDES THE SYMBOLIC INJURY, SHOULD SOON BE MORE TANGIBLE. WITH HAGEL AND WERNER CASTIGATING EACH OTHER FOR CAUSING THE RUPTURE, AND EMOTIONS RUNNING HIGH, THERE SEEMS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD AT THE MOMENT THAT THE DIVISION CAN BE ABORTED. COOLER HEADS WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE VPK TOGETHER FOR POLITICAL REASONS, WHICH IS WERNER'S GOAL, BUT AS LOWENBORG NOTED, "THIS IS LIKE A BUS THAT HAS BEGUN TO ROLL -- IT IS DIFFICULT TO STOP."
SMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, PARTY DISSENSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH00935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-0431
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770395/aaaadfzc.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbf737be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STOCKHOLM 895
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3214227
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPTH OF SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY SPLIT UNCLEAR AS ATTENTION FOCUSES ON CRUCIAL NORBOTTEN DISTRICT
TAGS: PINT, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbf737be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009